

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 /070 W
----- 020960

R 212040Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6829
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XM PN EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN REACTION TO RESUMPTION OF PANAMA CANAL
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 192947 B) QUITO 3442 C) QUITO 2229

1. ECUADOR VIEWS PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH MIXED EMOTIONS. A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF ECUADOREAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS PASS THROUGH THE CANAL AND ECUADOREANS ARE CONCERNED THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT RESULT IN HIGHER CANAL TOLLS THAT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ECUADOREAN ECONOMY. AT THE SAME TIME, ECUADOREANS ARE CAUGHT UP IN THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE CONCEPT OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY AND COULD NOT POSSIBLY ASSUME A PUBLIC OR OFFICIAL POSTURE AGAINST THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON AUGUST 20, WHEN ASKED, THAT ECUADOR COULD ONLY REGARD THE RETURN OF AMB BUNKER TO PANAMA AS A POSITIVE STEP BY THE USG.

3. MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR. SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN OR THE SENATE REFUSE TO ACT ON ANY
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TREATY WHICH MIGHT BE SIGNED HOWEVER, THE ECUADOREAN PRESS AND

THE GOE COULD BE EXPECTED TO RALLY TO THE SUPPORT OF PANAMA
AND TO CRITICIZE THE US IN THE NAME OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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